

PARK BOARD
ST. JOHN, INDIANA
October 7, 1997

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The Park Board of the Town of St. John met on this date with the following members present:

Attendee 1, Paul Haller	Attendee 4,
Attendee 2, Mary Anne Koke	Attendee 5,
Attendee 3, Eileen Butcher	Attendee 6,

The following members absent:

Absent 1, Joan Millis	Absent 4
Absent 2,	Absent 5
Absent 3,	Absent 6

CALL TO ORDER

The October 7th meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. followed by the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The recording secretary called the roll. It was noted that the newspaper misprinted the start time of the meeting as 7:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Eileen Butcher, seconded by Paul Haller, to approve the minutes of the September 2nd regular meeting and the September 18th special meeting and public hearing. Passed.

OLD BUSINESS

[Prairie West Fountain](#)

Mary Anne Koke announced that Crystal Palace has pulled out the fountain, cleaned it, and returned it for storage in the pole barn on White Oak Avenue. Eileen Butcher noted

that the pond looked pretty good; Paul Haller suggested that the flow be increased for a higher spray when the fountain is reinstalled next spring.

[St. John Heartland Park](#)

Mary Anne Koke announced that there would be a special meeting for the final bond resolution sometime before the next regular meeting, depending on the availability of all Park Board members and David Wickland. The newspapers will be given proper notice when the date is set.

[Parks Grass Cutting](#)

Mary Anne Koke reviewed that all bids came in for amounts greater than the cost of a full time employee.

Motion by Paul Haller, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to table the topic until the March 1998 regular meeting. Passed.

[Nipsco Environmental Challenge Fund](#)

No word has been received on the proposal submitted for the Bull Run Creek Native Grass and Wildflower Enhancement Project.

[New Playground Equipment](#)

Mary Anne Koke noted that second and third bids were not available due to the lack of a comparable vendor for similar equipment. She noted that the Park Board must decide how much equipment to purchase prior to December 31, when the purchase order must be signed to come out of this year's budget.

Mary Anne Koke noted that the Park Board is also waiting for word from the Lake County Solid Waste Development on available funds. The subject will be left on the agenda for discussion in November.

NEW BUSINESS

[Contracts: Instructors for the Program](#)

Mary Anne Koke presented the new contracts for the activities instructors for the period September 1997 through April, 1998 for:

- ◆ Susan Hynek for Fit for Kids (\$25/class, 1/wk),
- ◆ Deborah Rokosz for aerobics (\$25/class, 1/wk),
- ◆ Carl Dekker for basketball (\$10/class, 2/wk), and
- ◆ Pam Zych for volleyball (\$20/class, 1/wk).

The same instructors will receive the same reimbursement as last year. Residents pay \$2/program; non-residents pay \$3/program. All programs will be offered at Kolling Elementary School.

Paul Haller inquired why aerobics was being offered again, as it did poorly last year; the Park Board had agreed to give it one more year's trial, as there are no other activities for adults.

- Motion by Paul Haller, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to approve the contracts as submitted. Passed.

REPORTS

Programs

Mary Anne Koke noted that since the programs have just started no reports on the monies or claims for instructors have been received yet. Monies are being turned in within one to two days of each class, as requested by the State.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mary Anne Koke presented the following bills for payment:
 (* Payment to come from the Park Development Fund)

1966	Karen Price Associates	\$60.00	Court reporter 9/18/97 meeting
1965	Norma Yaeger	\$60.00	Recording secretary
1967	K-Mart	\$5.85	Envelopes
1968	Ruim Equipment	\$37.49	Belts
1969	Schilling Brothers	\$4.39	Spade bit
1970	St. John Postmaster	\$39.00	Stamps
1971	The Times	\$30.11	Legal ad
1972	Post Tribune	\$26.56	Legal ad
1973	Nipsco	\$42.62	Dusk to dawn lights
1974	St. John Municipal Utilities	\$20.00	Water
1975	Menards	\$350.94	Roof repair, Larimer Park
1976	Menards	\$11.78	Roof repair, Larimer Park
1977	Derwin Neitzel	\$595.00	Roof repair, labor
1978	Miracle Recreational Equipment	\$194.97	Replace damaged equipment
1979	AC Energy System	\$187.30	Generator
1980	Service Sanitation	\$31.49	Porta-potties
1981*	McNamara A.W.C.	\$900.00	Aquatics weed control for three ponds

- Motion by Eileen Butcher, seconded by Paul Haller, to pay claims 1966 through 1981. Passed unanimously.

Paul Haller inquired whether this was a second incident of vandalism at Schillton Hills. He reported having seen the pipe broken off by the juvenile who used it to hammer on the playground equipment. The child was caught in the act of vandalism and turned over to his parents, who refused to pay compensation. Park Board members felt the

matter should be pursued for compensation. It is unknown whether a police report was filed. Eileen Butcher will contact Joan Millis to see if any action has been taken.

ANY AND ALL

Eileen Butcher asked John Taylor to discuss turnover of Board membership at the end of the year, specifically if Joan Millis leaves the Board. Her special situation as a town employee in Public Works has been beneficial to the Board. The number of phone calls, hours of effort, and diligent record keeping were cited as part of the job of Park Board membership. John Taylor noted that the Public Works staff is overworked now and some staffing changes are likely. Eileen Butcher expressed concern over having the phones answered by a knowledgeable person. New board members would be appointed as needed.

However, it is unlikely that the Board could afford to hire a staff person on the current budget. He agreed that the budget needed to be increased, but it would be incremental over several years. He noted that the impact fees will begin as soon as the moratorium period is over (November?), in addition to the funds coming in from the Ice Arena as soon as it opens. Additional funds are needed just for insurance and grass cutting. He cited the example of Chicago's privatization of the parks as a cost-saving measure.

Eileen Butcher inquired the lights for the ball fields. The Town is unable to afford them at this time. But he recommended that the grading for the ball fields proceed while the equipment is still on site. He noted that the Town has applied for funds through an Intermodal Transportation grant to implement the new park's master plan. Other funds may become available, depending on the Municipal Solid Waste contract.

A member of the audience inquired about St. John working with the YMCA. John Taylor indicated that all the land in the Heartland Park is allocated for the arena, ball fields and a pavilion, retention pond, and pipelines; there are no plans for a YMCA there. The resident expressed his preference for the ball fields. Paul Haller noted that senior citizens may feel ignored.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Paul Haller, seconded by Eileen Butcher, to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Norma R. Yaeger
Recording Secretary